UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,987	04/16/2001	Keith E. Winkeler	5150-50200	6027

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EXAMINER
ISMAIL, SHAWKI SAIF

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/835,987	WINKELER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Shawki S Ismail	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 April 2001*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-28 are presented for examination.

References in applicant's IDS form 1449 have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Snyder et al., (Snyder), U.S. Patent No. **6,745,274** and in view of **AAPA** and further in

view of **Inohara et al., (Inohara),** U.S. Patent No. **6,377,952**.

4.   As to claim 1, 17, 19, and 24, Snyder teaches a computer-implemented method

for accessing data from a semaphore in a computer system, comprising:

including a first software component in a first application, wherein the first

software component is operable to access data from the semaphore, wherein the

semaphore is stored in a computer memory, wherein the data comprised in the semaphore

has a first data type of a plurality of different data types (Abstract, col.4 lines 50-62,

previous owner and current owner means that there are two application running;

executing the first application (abstract, col.2, lines 25-38, the execution is taken

place when the device writes to the shared resource);

Snyder teaches that in the bus lock mechanism, the bus is the only path to location

of the lock variable (col. 1, lines 30-35.) Snyder does not explicitly teach receiving a

uniform resource locator (URL) which specifies a location of the semaphore, wherein

the location information is received in response to user input; the first software

component connecting to the computer memory using the location information; the first

software component accessing the data comprised in the semaphore; and the first

software component converting the data into a format useable by the first application

after the first software component connects to the computer memory and receives the

data.

However, applicant admits in the background that "When a program executing on

a computer system is required to access data, such as from a semaphore, the program is

often required to account for the source or location of the data, opening and closing of

files, the format of the data, and conversion of the data to readable formats, among

others." Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to combine the teaching of AAPA and Snyder to incorporate a

URL to specify the location of the semaphore because using a URL universalizes access

to the location of the object. A path is used to access a memory location to store an

object in both cases but in the instant case the URL makes it easier to access the location

because you can access it from anywhere.

Snyder does not explicitly teach where the first software component after

accessing the data comprised in the semaphore, converting the data into a format useable

by the first application. However Inohara teaches the invention related to a file format

conversion method suitable for a plurality of computers to exchange over the World

Wide Web information having a plurality of file formats (abstract, col. 1, lines 8-17.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teaching of Snyder and Inohara to incorporate a format

conversion method because doing so will help decrease processing time and increase

transmission flow by making application more compatible among different platforms.

5.   As to claim 2, 20, and 25, Snyder teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the first

software component performs a locked read-modify-write operation on the data

comprised in the semaphore (col.1, lines 19-29.)

6.   As to claim 3, Snyder teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the first software

component accessing the data comprised in the semaphore comprises:

the first software component locking the semaphore (col.1, lines 19-29, lock

variable, only one device is able to access a resource at a given time);

the first software component reading the data comprised in the semaphore (col.1,

lines 19-29, the atomic instructions allow the device to read the value of the lock

variable);

the first software component writing new data to the semaphore (col. 1, lines 19-

29, the atomic instructions allow the device to write a value into the lock variable); and

the first software component unlocking the semaphore after said writing new

data to the semaphore (col. 2, lines 38-47.)

7.   As to claim 4, Snyder teaches the method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving one or more requests to perform a locked read-modify-write operation on the data comprised in the semaphore from other software components (col. 2, lines 26-38, the device makes a request to access the shared resource);

storing said one or more requests in a queue (col. 2, lines 26-38, the transaction control unit serializes request for access to semaphore); and

wherein said one or more requests are processed after said unlocking (col. 2, lines 38-47, in order to access shared resources the device must put in a request and then unlock the semaphore to access the resource.)

8.   As to claim 5, 21, and 26 Snyder teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

the first application receiving and processing the data after said converting;

wherein the first application uses the data comprised in the semaphore to synchronize operations with a second application executing on a second computer system (Abstract, Fig. 6, col. 7, line 60 – col. 8 line 30).

9.   As to claim 6, Snyder teaches the method of claim 5, further comprising:

the first software component notifying the application that the data has been obtained after the software component connecting to the semaphore and receiving the data; and wherein the application receives and processes the data after said notifying (col. 2, lines 26-38, the device makes a subsequent request to read the content until it has successfully obtained access to the shared resource.)

10.   As to claim 7, Snyder teaches the method of claim 5, wherein the software component connecting to the semaphore, the software component receiving the data, the software component converting the data, and the application receiving and processing the

data are performed a plurality of times (col. 2, 26-38, and col. 4, lines 26-40, the device makes a subsequent request to read the content until it has successfully obtained access to the shared resource.)

11.   As to claim 8, 22, and 27, Snyder teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the software component connecting to the semaphore, the software component receiving the data, and the software component converting the data are performed without any user programming required (col. 1, lines 36-47, a cache concurrency mechanism, a protocol used to update and the lock variable in one location in response to changes made to the lock variable in a second location.)

12.   As to claims 9, 10, 11, 23, and 28, Snyder does not explicitly teach where the format is a self-describing format; wherein said converting comprises converting the data into a generic format; and wherein converting the data into a first format, wherein the first format includes the data and one or more attributes of the data.

However Inohara teaches the invention related to a file format conversion method suitable for a plurality of computers to exchange over the World Wide Web information having a plurality of file formats (abstract, col. 1, lines 8-17.) Inohara also teaches providing a file with a file name conversion method of obtaining the file name of a conversion destination file from the file name of a conversion originating file (col.4, lines 4-18.) Inohara also teaches that a file table may store various parameters of each file managed by the file system (col. 6, lines 48-65.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Snyder and Inohara to incorporate a format

conversion method because doing so will help decrease processing time and increase transmission flow by making application more compatible among different platforms.

13.   As to claim 12 and 18, they contain similar limitation of claim 1; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

14.   As to claim 13, Snyder teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the first and second applications use the semaphore to synchronize operation of the first and second applications (Abstract, Fig. 6, col. 7, line 60 – col. 8 line 30.)

15.   As to claim 14, Snyder teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the first computer system, the second computer system, and the computer memory are connected through a network (col. 3, lines 6-62, the computer system can have a number of cells 103 which are coupled through the interconnect 108, the interconnect 108 is a high speed interconnect such as a network.).

16.   As to claim 15, Snyder teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the computer memory storing the semaphore is comprised in one of the first computer system or the second computer system (col. 1, lines 30-47.)

17.   As to claim 16, Snyder teaches the method of claim 1, wherein accessing data from a semaphore in a computer system comprises publishing or writing data to the semaphore (col. 4, lines 50-62, a write request can be used to either free the semaphore or obtain access to it.)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 703-605-4362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 703-306-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawki Ismail
Patent Examiner
August 26, 2004

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER